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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1910.

A Word More About the Streets.

A reader of The Washington Herald who heartily approves its demand for better care of the streets and shares the humiliation felt by all over the disgraceful conditions of the past fortnight, and not yet corrected, nevertheless looks askance at the suggestion that authorities higher up "be charged with the duty and vested with responsibility" of keeping the city "clean and healthful and habitable."

"The District can do the work," he says, "if Congress will only provide the means. Surely we should not consider the alternative of turning over the control of the city to Federal hands."

It is true, perhaps, that Congress year after year fails to make adequate provision for such an emergency as recently arose. But Congress time and again has emphasized its impatience with conditions similar to those recently endured, and indicated unmistakably its desire that the streets be kept clean. We do not believe that responsibility for the disgrace can fairly be charged to any misgiving spirit on the part of Congress. We think, rather, that lack of means, if that be the only explanation, is due to failure of the District to evolve a plan for dealing with such an emergency and to set out the needs before Congress.

What we said—and we here repeat it—is that if the District cannot keep the city "clean and healthful and habitable"—if the District is to continue to show helplessness in the face of every emergency and inability to secure what is needed from Congress—then let the responsibility be transferred to authority higher up, whose resourcefulness may be counted upon to stand the test.

Does anybody suppose for a moment that the War Department, if intrusted with the physical care of the Capital City, would ever permit such conditions as we have endured these past miserable weeks? What Washington needs, not only in stress of weather, but all the year around, is work in cleanliness and sanitation such as Gen. Leonard Wood directed and put into effect at Havana, and which has made the Cuban capital a clean and healthful city.

It must be kept in mind that this is a national city, and when disgraceful conditions are tolerated here which justify provoke the sneers of visitors from less pretentious cities, where such conditions are unknown, the reproach and shame become national as well as local.

Again we say, clean the city and keep it clean. And we do not care a rap how it is done, what it costs, or who booses the job.

Christmas three days running! Going some!

Chance for the Virginia Horse.

Horse raising in Virginia is destined to receive governmental recognition and substantial aid if Congress adopt the suggestion made by Quartermaster General Alekhie, of the army. That officer has been giving special attention to the subject of raising horses for military use. In other years the War Department secured its animals for the mounted service by contract, and the horses so obtained have not met with the approval of army riders, despite the attempts made to select serviceable animals by means of specifications and rigid inspection. There have been established two remount stations, one at Fort Keogh, Mont., and the other at Fort Reno, Okla., to which places young horses are sent for breaking in and general training and are later shipped to cavalry regiments. The result has been most satisfactory, and the indications are that the mounted man of the army is to have a better horse and one that will last much longer than the animals obtained under contract, mostly from the Middle Western section of the country.

Lately, Gen. Alekhie has been looking into the sources of horse supply in other parts of the country, including Northern New York, the remote West, and Kentucky and Virginia. In Virginia it has been found there is available for military use a splendid type of horse. It is now proposed by the army quartermaster's department to establish a third remount station in the horse-raising section of that State. To this end, Gen. Alekhie contemplates the purchase, if Congress will authorize it and provide the funds, of some 5,000 acres located in the neighborhood of Front Royal, adjacent to two railroads, in a rolling section of country, where there is good limestone water and bluegrass pasture. There is no bluegrass at Fort Reno or Fort Keogh, and the native grasses at the latter station require about ten acres to the animal for grazing. So that is an advantage for Virginia over the Western

stations. More than that, the records show that the average cost of foraging young animals per year at the Reno and Keogh remount depots is \$46.80, while in the vicinity of Front Royal, Va., the average cost is \$30 per animal per year.

That is an admirable showing in all respects, both as to the economy of the arrangement and the eminently desirable and profitable results of the undertaking. It is no surprise to those who are familiar with the Virginia product of horse that the government is able to find something attractive in that direction. It has all along been considered that the thoroughbred animal is essentially a racer or a hunter or a jumper, without being of the practical type and endurance required of a horse in the military establishment. Gen. Alekhie's discoveries in Virginia are bound to be a profitable investment of the public funds and will furnish an additional source of supply of army horses.

Although Christmas is over, we are quite sure there is a whole lot of charity left to go around.

Feeding the Children.

If the matter were to be considered solely on sentimental grounds, it would be a fine thought—especially during the holiday season—that humanitarianism has made so great progress that we cannot bear the thought of the children in the public schools studying their lessons while suffering from hunger. But as the plan of providing food for public school children is being worked out in several American cities, the motive power is not solely humanitarian, but economic. We have come to see that it is poor economy to render our schools inefficient—or allow them to remain so—through hungry pupils. Dr. Kerschenstein, who has done so much to make the schools of Munich famous, declares that to make a school efficient there must be properly equipped pupils as well as properly equipped teachers, and when conditions are such that the pupils, through hunger, cannot concentrate their minds on their tasks, the whole system of education is simply a waste of money. Long before we thought of doing it in this country the school children of Munich in need of nourishment were given breakfast as well as lunch.

In Chicago recently they adopted a system of 1-cent lunches for the school children, and though 1 cent seems a small amount, it has been found practicable to furnish at that price enough nourishing soup and bread to keep the children going. In New York the board of education has provided midday meals for two public schools, and the system is now to be extended to three more. In most cases a substantial lunch is furnished in these schools for 3 cents, but even if the child has not that small amount of money, it is not intended that it shall remain hungry. After an investigation into the subject, held some two years ago, it was stated that upward of 70,000 school children in New York went to school hungry. The old system of getting at the facts was to ask in the various schools the children who were hungry to hold up their hands. Naturally, there was a certain proportion of youngsters who were too proud to indicate the truth in this way, but more recent investigations show that the estimate of two years ago was not far from the truth. The health examiners have been around investigating, and in two schools in the poorer districts of New York they found that 13 per cent of the pupils were ill-nourished, and the cause of this, being traced back, was found in the homes, where the direst poverty existed.

The most encouraging thing about the work in this direction that is being carried on by New York and Chicago is that it is certain to spread. Luckily, it is only in the large, overcrowded cities that these hungry school children will be found, but wherever they are found their distress should be promptly relieved. It is good to know that the science of economics approves of the feeding of the school children as a saving to the state, but even if this were not so, we are sure that the instinct toward kindness and charity which is so strong a characteristic of the American people would work to the same end.

Pastor Sheldon says that when the dramatization of "In His Steps" is put on he will insist on having only religious actors. Luckily, the play does not call for a big cast.

Reign of the Alembic.

The world has been taught by scientists and the advance of orderly scientific investigation in its "search for truth" to smile indulgently upon the credulous efforts to find an elixir of life, a fountain of everlasting life, or the universal panacea, that have immortalized Roger Bacon, Dr. Paracelsus, and Ponce de Leon.

But the eager interest with which "the whole" as well as the sick, turned to Brown-Sequard's elixir, to Koch's consumption cure, and the extravagant adulation of Ehrlich and his magical "606" tell us very plainly that nations of the earth are still held by the lure of the alchemist and the mysterious products of the laboratory.

Has modern science, as well as present-day journalism, its "yellow" that heralds discoveries prematurely, in contravention of all the dicta of the ultra-conservative and cautious schools of the science and art of healing? Times without number has the present-day generation seen the entire pharmacopoeia swept ruthlessly away in the face of a new-found specific for all the ills that flesh is heir to, only to be awakened to a short-lived realization of its credulity.

the most rigid investigation before they find a place in the realm of therapeutics.

Every year the pharmacists throw out or reject many more curative agencies than are added. Day by day the world is learning more and more that the great specific against disease and the most potent of all panaceas are right living and the practice of common-sense hygiene. Nature is most relentless and knows absolutely no forgiveness for the transgression of any of her laws. In the days of lusty youth, when man glories in his strength and heedlessly runs counter to the well-defined and very plain rules of living, there is charged up to his account many a debt that will be paid by broken health that no specific, however cunningly any of the seventy-five elements may be combined to produce such, can be expected to restore!

The old sumptuary laws of Moses and of every nation since his time did great things to preserve public health and to combat popular ignorance with the strong arm of the law. But it comforts better with the great principles of self-government of which this country is so proud, and with the vaunted civilization of this age, to devote the best energies of state and individual to good sanitation, public health, and the teaching of right living, than to hang credulous hopes on any miraculous production of the chemists' retort.

When one considers that a great many first rate tailors will make a dress suit, silk lined throughout, for \$60—part of it down, and the rest on time—it does seem as if \$5 is a pretty stiff price for a silk robe without any lining and no trousers or vest. But the silk is of the heaviest quality, and the robe is made of a lot of shirring or tucking, or whatever it's called, in the back, so the justness may not have been so seriously imposed upon as one might think. Anyway, a man who is just about to step into a \$2,000 job would hardly feel like fussing with a tradesman over the established price for his outfit. And there is one respect in which a judicial robe has it on a dress suit. Not infrequently a man can make a dress suit do him all his life. But there is always the danger that one may get fat; and just the minute one gets fat, one is almost certain to be invited some place where it is almost compulsory to appear in evening clothes. The judicial robe, however, is fitted only across the shoulders, and with proper care should last a man all his life.

Not long ago a number of associate justices of the Supreme Court fell into a discussion about the robe worn by the late Chief Justice Jay, an oil painting of whom hangs in the Supreme Court robing room. In the picture the justice's robe is black, trimmed in bright red. The question was whether the red trimming had been affected by Chief Justice Jay himself or by the artist who did the picture. Many thought the artist was responsible. Finally, one of the justices, who happened to know members of the Jay family, wrote to them and requested that the robe be sent down to Washington for inspection. Sure enough, it was trimmed in red.

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POLITICAL POTPOURRI.

From the Detroit Free Press.
Mr. Taft's emphatic declaration that the canal would certainly be fortified seemed to be sufficient to silence all radical opposition, and it might be assumed that a majority of the members of Congress were sane.

From the Springfield Republican.
The colonel's case is thus diagnosed by James J. Hill: "Roosevelt has always been pleased to get a big crowd together to hear him shout and hurrah. Putting one of these cheering crowds, he loses hold of himself absolutely. In fact, I do not believe Roosevelt has had continuous control of himself for a week at a time since he became a national figure, but he simply can't help himself."

From the New York Journal of Commerce.
Democracy in Congress now admittedly intend to attempt a revision of the tariff by a method which for some years at least, has been unprecedented. They are planning to have an unofficially chosen committee of their number undertake a study of the schedules for the purpose of indicating the lines along which a "conservative" revision should proceed when the new Democratic House is convened a year from the present time.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.
Woodrow Wilson refused to take the charge upon James Smith with great effect. He makes it reasonably clear that he accepted the nomination for governor with the distinct understanding that Mr. Smith would be a candidate for election to the Senate if a Democratic legislature should be elected. Mr. Smith appears to have adhered to this understanding during the campaign, but to have changed his mind after the election.

From the New York Evening Post.
In all the renewed talk about revising the tariff proposal, accentuated by the Herald's discovery that 26 of the 33 members of the newly elected Congress are in favor of a downward revision, there is danger of forgetting those features of the protective system which can be revised only by expiration. Short of removing them altogether, we cannot revise the tariff with the slightest certainty that it will satisfy the public.

From the Detroit Free Press.
Surely the edict is between the devil and the deep sea. Probably it is the natural result of having been told that "conservative" meant "protection" by the East-Ohioan in the West and Saratoga in the East. Anyway, several Detroit business men have warned the Detroit Board of Commerce to cancel the edict's speaking engagement there next month. The board has declined to do so, but a number of Detroit business men declare, a greater district in the business world.

From the Providence Journal.
No one would seriously dispute the existence of a grave popular distrust of American legislators. For a long time they have been under suspicion, and some recent revelations, notably those at Albany, have deepened the public impression of their unreliability as instruments through which to work the popular will. In about a fortnight the lawmakers will reassemble in most of the States, and before the winter is over one-third of the Senate of the Sixty-second Congress will be chosen. Will the new Senators satisfy the public demand?

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.
The \$20,000 Congressional commission suggests that immigration be restricted to skilled labor, and no more unskilled workmen be permitted to enter this country. The fulfillment of such a recommendation must be approved by any one who considers labor the backbone of the nation. There is no lack of skilled labor in the United States. There is no lack of labor that we must obtain from Europe. If we shut out the Slav and the Latin peasant, the illiterate workman, who is to do the digging, the building, the hard labor on our railroads and public works?

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.
Did Democracy has, as it were, to face the music. A second time within three decades the people begin to be united upon the feeling that something is essentially wrong. The first time came in 1856, when, after two decades of agitation and education, Mr. Cleveland swept the country on a radical demand for drastic action. The masses were ripe and ready for this. The manufacturers, warned by the onward march of the reform propaganda and the constant defeat of protectionist reactions, were willing to adjust themselves to a revenue basis. When the time came for the assembling of Congress instead of calling forth wrath upon its advent in extra session, thus by its delay dispiriting the party masses and discipline, brought forth the Wilson bill in plain defiance of its pledges, it invited all that subsequently happened.

HUMAN NATURE IN WASHINGTON

By FRED C. KELLY.

They tell a story here of a member of the United States Supreme Court who used to have a great habit of chiding his wife about her high priced women pay for dresses. When he was appointed to the Supreme bench this jurist went to see about having his judicial gown made. There was a woman here in Washington who, until her death, used to make all the gowns for the members of the United States courts in the city, and she made up the gown, using the heaviest and choicest silk that she could obtain. Her bill was \$100.

And the judge hasn't joked about women's dressmaking bills since.

Most of the judicial gowns made up for more recent appointees, however, have been made by a firm in New York State at a cost of about \$75.

Even at that, it must be a good deal of a shock to a newly appointed associate justice to learn that before he is even sworn in, he must dash out \$75 for a garment that will be no more to him for street wear than a bath robe.

And the government doesn't buy the judicial robes for its justices. Government employees are expected to buy their uniforms of their own pockets whether they be letter carriers or Supreme Court justices.

When one considers that a great many first rate tailors will make a dress suit, silk lined throughout, for \$60—part of it down, and the rest on time—it does seem as if \$5 is a pretty stiff price for a silk robe without any lining and no trousers or vest. But the silk is of the heaviest quality, and the robe is made of a lot of shirring or tucking, or whatever it's called, in the back, so the justness may not have been so seriously imposed upon as one might think. Anyway, a man who is just about to step into a \$2,000 job would hardly feel like fussing with a tradesman over the established price for his outfit. And there is one respect in which a judicial robe has it on a dress suit. Not infrequently a man can make a dress suit do him all his life. But there is always the danger that one may get fat; and just the minute one gets fat, one is almost certain to be invited some place where it is almost compulsory to appear in evening clothes. The judicial robe, however, is fitted only across the shoulders, and with proper care should last a man all his life.

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A LITTLE NONSENSE.

ALL OVER.
The atmosphere's murky.
The world is askew.
The rest of the turkey
Goes into a stew.

The children are fretful.
The mother's upset;
The father's regretful
At being in debt.

At odds with our neighbors.
Our money all spent.
We take our labors—
Christmas has went.

Boys of the Job.
"Are you a self-made man?"
"No; my wife furnished the specifications."

Latest Styles.
"Placed your order for an automobile yet?"
"Got an engagement to-day to examine the 1911 models in horse mortgages."

Other Duties.
"Hubby, I fear I have been neglecting the children."
"That's all right, my dear, so long as you don't neglect any of your duties, such as your uplift club is going to rectify."

One Thing Safe.
We doubt if any boy feels drawn,
To use his little hatchet on
The Christmas tree.

Often the Case.
"Did that cock accept a position with you?"
"No; we couldn't offer the advantages she had been accustomed to."

A Few Crumbs.
"It must be hard for birdmen to pick up a living this weather."
"It is. No purses are being offered. Kind-hearted citizens ought to sprinkle a few dollar bills around their back yards."

Caught Him.
"Why are you limping?"
"That pestiferous boy of mine set a steel trap for Santa Claus."

Appropos "Lame Ducks."
From the Boston Transcript.
Appropos "lame ducks," now found in great numbers on the banks of the Potomac, the phrase was given a particular vogue by Roosevelt. In one of his pleas for the strenuous life, about the time he was appointing Blackburn of Kentucky on the Panama commission. When Secretary Loeb was announcing the news to a group of newspaper men, one of the latter said, "I wonder whether the President classifies Blackburn as a lame duck or a mollycoddle."

Before Loeb could reply, President Roosevelt walked into the room and, demanding an explanation of the laughter following the newspaper remark, remarked the question was again propounded. Roosevelt's reply was a chuckle uttered as he disappeared in an instantaneous return to his private office, and the doubt as to the classification was never solved.

Use Common-sense Methods.
From Popular Mechanics.
What is the matter with the furnace? When the radiators smoke or fill the room with foul coal gas or give no heat, this question rises almost automatically to the lips of every owner of a hot-air heating plant. There are dozens of things that can be the matter with it, but the chances are that not more than one or two are responsible for your particular trouble.

Aside from the fact that each furnace in operation is a distinctly individual plant, with conditions governing its use and operation that might be totally different from the factors that play an important part in the use of the duplicate plant next door, there are several simple rules to be followed that will make economical operation easy. Cleanliness is the first rule to be observed. Sweep the firebox, the pipes and flues, the ashpit and the coalbin. The principal causes for complaint common-sense methods will eliminate.

POETS AMONG THE HIGH AND MIGHTY

By FRED C. KELLY.

long Supreme bench, under the custom which places the associates on alternate sides of the Chief Justice, in the order of seniority, starting with the senior associate justice on his right.

Senator Money, of Mississippi, who gets up at 5 o'clock in the morning, with his secretary, soon after his breakfast awakens him at 3 a. m., is a great believer in profanity.

"My only two real vices are coffee drinking and profanity—and I enjoy both," remarked the Senator recently, after mentioning the fact that he neither smokes nor drinks. "A man shouldn't go around cursing everything in sight, because that would be very unbecomingly, but under stress of provocation there is nothing that seems to act as a heavenly 'scape valve' for the human system as a reasonable amount of carefully selected profanity. Some people relieve their feelings by prayer; others use profanity. Both are good."

Senator Money also has ideas about the kind of novels he likes to read. As a matter of fact, except for his falling asleep, he would read Greek, but as he is obliged to depend on others to read to him, he listens to a good many novels. But, he says, the older he gets the more action he likes, and he makes it a point not to read novels in which less than five villains are killed.

Senator Hale is unlike most elderly men in that he does not object to winter. When the Senator was about to start for his Maine home to spend the Christmas recess, one of his colleagues asked him if he didn't think it would be a better plan, inasmuch as he was going to make a long journey anyhow, to spend Christmas in Florida instead of Maine, and get in some warm weather.

"Should say not," replied the Maine Senator. "Warm weather is just what I wish to avoid. It's worth while going to Maine and back for the invigorating effect of some real Maine winter. And in the summer he goes swimming in a lake, and he takes a considerable spite the fact that he has to wear a suit, enjoying the full vigor of youth, and Maine waters too cold for swimming."

The retiring Senator from Maine has long been regarded as a man who, while not necessarily hunting for a fight in Congress, can put up a pretty fair battle when occasion demands. An old friend of Senator Hale told this story the other day, and it is said to be illustrative of the Maine temperament.

One of Hale's sons, now an attorney in Portland, was then a small boy. One day he came into his father's office and remarked that he was going to have a fight with another youngster the next day. His father reproved him, and said that he didn't want him fighting with his playmates.

"But I don't see how I can get out of it," insisted the boy. "He dared me to fight him, and I told him I'd fight him."

"My boy," said Senator Hale, gravely, "if you agreed to fight somebody, then don't fail to fight him, and above all else, see that you win."

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NOT ENOUGH SOLDIERS.

Secretary Dickinson Says Army Is About 335,000 Men Short.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.
The total unpreparedness of the United States for war is set out in startling fashion by Secretary of War Dickinson in a reply to the House resolution introduced by Representative McLaughlin of California, calling for a statement of the military conditions as they exist to-day.

This does not mean that the country is deficient only in offensive power. "In my opinion, this country cannot, so far as its land forces are concerned," says Mr. Dickinson, "be considered in a state of readiness for defense or to repel invasion if attempted on our coast by any first-class power having the shipping to transport their armored forces over the sea."

The regular army is found by Secretary Dickinson to be almost fatally deficient. It lacks numbers; it lacks the proper proportion of the various arms and reserves of field guns and supplies; it is widely scattered; it is not organized into brigades and divisions essential for war purposes. While the coast defenses are satisfactory in the matter of equipment, the Secretary says there are not enough artillerymen to man them.

The militia is in even worse condition, declares Secretary Dickinson. It lacks arms and numbers; it is without proper organization; it is so scattered as to prohibit prompt concentration; it is deficient in training and physical condition; many of the militiamen, by reason of family relations, could not be counted upon for long war service.

Making deductions for inefficiency, the regular army is estimated at only 64,000 men, and the militia 36,000. As an army with the choice of point of attack might require us to have an adequate defense at all points, the minimum number of trained mobile troops required to prevent a lodgment by the enemy on the Atlantic or Gulf coasts is placed at 450,000.

This is on the theory that the first single hostile expedition to cross the Atlantic would be made up of 100,000, and that the crossing could be made in from ten to eighteen days, while an expeditionary force of like strength might be expected to follow in from twenty to forty days. Yet to repel this force we have available in all parts of the United States at present only 114,000 regulars and militia, lacking in many essentials. So that there is an actual shortage of 335,000 men to defend our Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

In addition, 19,191 trained coast artillery troops are needed to man the existing forts.

Mother-in-law Reheled.

From the New York Tribune.
Mrs. Leah Hutt, exceedingly vigorous lady of about ninety-seven years, appeared yesterday in the New Jersey Avenue court, Brooklyn, in complaint against her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mary Hutt, of 172 Pitkin avenue. She told Magistrate Smith that she had lived with her son and his wife for twenty-five years.

"I can stand it no longer," she declared. "I am through with being a charity boarder in this woman's house. I want you to make her give me my clothing and bedding. I am going to shift for myself."

The younger Mrs. Hutt said that her mother-in-law had recently developed a liking for beverages stronger than Russian tea and she also wandered around the streets.

"You are lucky to have such good relatives to look after you. You must not carry on so," said Magistrate Smith. "Go home with your daughter-in-law and stay there. Case dismissed."

Good for Boston.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.
Boston police are commanded to arrest one spitter to-day, two to-morrow, the next day, and so on until all the people are in jail or expropriation has stopped. Ho, ho, ho!

What is a Progressive Democrat?

From the Globe-Democrat.
"Conservative Democrat" sounds reasonable enough, but "Progressive Democrat" rather taxes the imagination.

VIEWS AND INTERVIEWS

By FRED C. KELLY.

It is not generally known that the King of Siam, not the one of the many and long names, but he who recently ascended the throne in the land of the white elephants, and who was educated in England, is a poet. This may be difficult to believe of a sovereign who lives in the indulgence of a Far Eastern potentate, but it is true, nevertheless.

While at Oxford, the young prince, in a letter to an American actress, thus lamented the "wide gulf 'twixt throne and stage!":

Ah, love, if only thou wert born prince,
Or else myself were only something less
Than that which I am now—of rank so high—
Oh, then we two might know such happiness!

Incidentally, this King has a decided penchant for literature, and has several novels and even comedies to his credit. He might very well be compared to King Oscar, of Sweden, another royal poet, whose literary work has been published under a nom de plume.

Strange as it may seem, the Czar also is fond of writing poetry. He thus mournfully sums up his feelings in one of his poems—small wonder—which was translated some years ago:

My soul strives vainly for relief—
Grieved as by drifting snow,
By doubts which seek to blot the belief
Of finding peace below.

Lord Cromer, like the Right Hon. George Wyndham, has "a pretty turn for sonnets," with the following verse, composed by Lord Curzon, appears on a brass memorial tablet erected in the cathedral at Calcutta to members of the Indian volunteer contingent, who lost their lives in South Africa:

These sons of Britain in the East
Fought not for praise and fame;
They died for England, and the least
Made greater her great name.

Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton is a poet of no mean order, while it may surprise many to learn that Sir George White, some years ago, wrote a poem, entitled "Edward VII," which was published in the Gibraltar Chronicle and Official Gazette. The first verse ran like this:

Unfold his standard! Let it reach the day,
Hymn loud an anthem to the royal war,
Of Edward's crown; the symbol of a reign
That halts the dawn of peace, the end of pain.

Lord Crofton, a musician of taste and talent, has composed a number of hymns and chants, including the favorite wedding hymn, "Oh, Perfect Love," while Sir George Young also has written many poems. Then there are a number of society women, Viscountess Grey, Lady Escher, Lady Lindsay, Lady Alfred Douglas, and the Marchioness of Townshend, all of whom have published poems that have earned the praise of the critics.

The mention of the fact that the Right Hon. George Wyndham has poetical inclinations reminds that there have been one or two witty rhymersmiths in the House of Commons. Sir Wilfrid Lawson was the best, but John O'Brien, member for Belfast, aroused considerable amusement when he wrote "The Lady of South Sligo," which was inspired by Patrick O'Brien's championship of the women teachers who wished to wear their engagement rings in school.

Oh, Patrick, dear, come over here;
Your smile I'd wish to see;
Give me your hand, you needn't stand
On ceremony with me.
By all the girls you're idolized
From New York to Kettering,
Now wonder sure you're spellbound
The wearing of the ring.